

AUG. 1996

OPEN ARMS

VOL.8 NUMBER 8

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

Annual Canoe Trip # 3

~ Oh, what a beautiful morning, oh, what a beautiful day. ~ Beautiful weather and beautiful wimin with a river to ourselves, shared only by sighted deer, turtles, and blue heron. A few fish just had to jump up and get a look at their lovely intruders. Who could blame them?

Well, Mona and Marlene managed to stay dry this year, so we were all relieved. Linda did not have anything bad happen to her on her very first-ever canoe experience.

Welcome to Lois. This was Lois' very first-ever experience as a part of our community. She seemed to be having a very good time, sure hope so. It was nice to have her with us.

The trip was nearly 2 and a half hours long, so we were given an opportunity to get caught up on news and happenings with some old, dear, special friends. Ideas for future outings were brainstormed, experiences with families and the traumas of raising children was shared, along with joyful experiences of being "grandma", and gardening concerns, etc. This was special time, with special people.

At the end of the trip, it's fun to see who gets involved in pulling those heavy canoes up out of the water, and then helping to load them on the racks. Who would you guess? Did you guess Marci, Linda, Nancy, Mona, Marlene, Deb? Well, you guessed right, and there were others who gave a heave-ho as well.

Arriving at our picnic site, we were met with a prepared meal, done lovingly by Pam and Amy. A big thank you to them for playing such an important part in making this a successful event. When wimin are hungry, prepared food sure tastes good. Thanks to Fran for carrying the spare Pepsi.

For this glorious day, we have Sherrill and Lori to thank. Thank you ladies!!! We had a wonderful time, look forward to another canoe outing next year, and want you to know that we all feel greatly enriched in having you with us.

The staff would like to welcome with OPEN ARMS the Reverend Martha Carroll as the new minister at Southside Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Several month ago the congregation listed what attributes they wanted to have in the new minister. Some of the items listed included a good preacher/teacher, inclusive, open and affirming, mature, sense of humor, someone who is aware and supportive of social issues, and available when we need support, comfort and prayers. We feel Martha fits these descriptors and will be a strong asset to our community. As soon as all the loose ends are tied up, her partner, Sandy will be joining her in S. Bend. Martha will be starting the first week of August, so we would hope to see alot of our readers there to give her the support she will be providing to so many of our sisters.

The results of our mail -in- poll to select the new masthead were inconclusive so we will have a ballot box at the August 24, dance to determine the winner of the masthead contest.

OPEN ARMS would like to welcome a new staff member to our family. Her name is JOY and we do appreciate her willingness to help. If anyone else could contribute a few hours a month to help with the newsletter, please call any of the staff members listed on page 2.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Sept. newsletter is Aug. 16th. Submissions received after Aug. 16th may not be published in the Sept. newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544

Lavender Rhythm Dance

August 24th, 1996

Pickwick Place

219 N. 4th St., Niles

8:00 p.m. to 1:00a.m. (IN time)

\$7.00 admission at the door

Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze (219)-272-3477
Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338
Joy (219)-259-0906
Advertising: Kaye & Marcia
Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

1996 Whistle Stop Cafe Schedule

Aug. 2 Martins 6:30

Call Cityline each week for location of that week's game

674-0900 ext. 2233 or 1-800-830-2489 ext 2233.

THIRD FRIDAY OUT

Poor Toni's



2110 W. Franklin

(Lincolnway/33)

Next to Battjes Pontiac, Elkhart, IN

Fri., Aug. 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Tuesday, Aug. 12th for reservations at 684-6913.

All suggestions of future places would be appreciated.

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Olivia Cruises

October, 1996	Sonora Bay: Club Med Resort
February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Carribean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

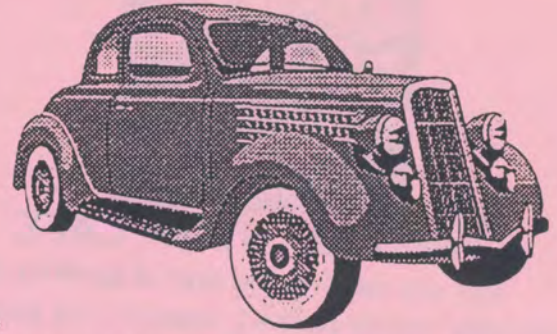
call 1-800-631-6277 for information



MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 13-18

REAL DYKES DON'T DRIVE FORDS



After it was all over, someone told me that buying a car is one of life's major stresses, not far down the list from marriage and buying a home.

Now they tell me.

I still get choked up talking about my

'76 Volvo sedan, Spock. He was with me for nineteen years, longer than any lover to date. But when the only good Volvo mechanic in town retired, I could no longer take care of Spock. I had to buy a car.

But what? I couldn't afford a new Volvo. After two years of heroic rescues by Lover, emptying my bank account and fearing to wander farther than Super AAA would tow, I wanted nothing to do with used vehicles.

That decided, I faced the nightmare of car payments.

Fortunately, my employer pays me instead of giving me benefits. So it was simple. I don't get sick or take a vacation for the next six years and bingo - - the car is paid off. Well, it made sense at the time.

I spent that hot summer month memorizing Consumer Reports New Car Buying Guide. I lived, breathed and sweated cars. Lover and I scanned price and options stickers at dealerships by the light of the summer moon.

What I really needed was a kind of car-parent to tell me what to buy. My step-dad-in-law counseled me, but confessed, "I'm a GMC man." My mechanic echoed him. So I reported with great hopes to the nearest GMC dealership. No match. GMC must be a guy thing.

Lover's very out at work. In our radical right town, queer couples don't get many straight mentors, but Lover's old boss Molly has always taken a motherly interest in us, teasing me about spoiling Lover when I bring flowers, giving us gruff mini-lectures. "a Ford," she pronounced. I couldn't explain that dykes like me don't drive new Fords.

Soon, I had it narrowed down. Safety - - at fifty mortality becomes very real. Low repair costs - - lesbian writers don't keep cars nineteen years for no reason. Roominess - - I'd always had difficulty fitting book cases and multiple pet carriers in my economy cars. I'd entered my station wagon/mini-van years.

Lover had quietly gone out the year before and replaced her old car with its updated twin: the lesbian national car, a Subaru wagon. I drove one, loved it, and went to talk turkey with the salesman. Then his manager arrived for a good cop/bad cop routine. I walked.

More research. Big city brokers. Test driving. Internet queries. I was exhausted and confused.

I gave in and went to car-mom-Molly's Ford dealer. They had what I wanted and made it affordable. Molly even called during the negotiations and told me to get the pretty blue one. One look and I named the mini-van, *Large Marge*.

Car-mom knew best. Middle age is no time to be politically correct about air conditioning or to resist automatic transmissions and power options made for bad shoulders and bad knees.

Lover's now on the management team with Molly. One evening outside their office, Molly's employees ogled Lover's "friend" in *Large Marge* as they climbed into cars decorated with Christian fish magnets and Free Willie '96 bumper stickers.

When Jed, one of Molly's underlings, came out he averted his eyes from mine in the usual I'd-rather-not-know manner, and conceded, "Nice van."

With the smugness of a black-sheep who's the favored sibling anyway, I boasted, "Thanks. Molly picked it out." Jed stopped in his tracks, a look of total confusion on his face, then scurried away.

The conflicts, expense and embarrassment of driving a shiny new Ford were suddenly worth it. I began to understand why buying a car is a major life stress. It's a rite of passage. A common initiation. Evidence of achievement and, even for a lesbian, of belonging.

I can't wait to show it to my in-laws!



WHISTLE STOP CAFE

We are nearing the end of another Whistle Stop Cafe, action packed, season. As this goes to press, we are 9 and 2. The two losses were to Kropp, who are placing in 1st. place in our "C" League. We are in 2nd. place and can expect to be bumped up to the "B" League next year along with Kropp.

For those of you who would like to have seen us beat Kropp, as well, we have discovered that at least one of their players plays with the Belles of South Bend, which is a state Wimin's Baseball team. The Belles played a Chicago team early in July and were ahead 9 to 1 (last known score). So, we were up against some stiff competition.

Every year Whistle Stop Cafe serves out a spicier dish. This year is really cooking...strong teamwork, accurate execution, smart and strong. I feel that it is the over-all working together that has made this year's success.....and everyone has done her part well.

On a personal note, I felt that exceptional playing was done at short stop, second, and pitching. Pitching was so cool....strong, dependable, and I don't recall a single error. Short stop was strong, accurate, and again, played in a dependable, experienced manner. Second made some just exciting, dynamic, stand up and shout, plays. Outfield caught some beauties. Hitting was never better.

Nothing succeeds like success and our wimin are just getting better and better. This is creating a good, faithful, fan turn-out. What can I say, Whistle Stop is on track, rolling and full of excitement.

July 19th game vs. My Place...13 to 2. Marci got a home run and a single. Woody got a double and a single. Sharon S. and Patti both hit doubles. Nice hitting by Barb, Marlene, Fran, and Mona. Sharon S. did a fantastic job of pitching. Hardly anything got out of the infield. The one that did get out there was powerfully intercepted by Fran.



COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends

P.O.Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. *COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

Nothing in the mail this month---not coming or going.....hard to believe. This is the first month for that to happen, although summer months are usually less active. (I've been averaging approx. 6 pieces of mail per month.) I guess it's just been too hot to even think about cuddling up, but that will probably change when the Fall weather hits. That is when the nesting urge seems to be strongest and the mailings become heavy.

Remember, it doesn't hurt to run an ad. You're not sticking your neck out or anything. You don't ever have to reply if you choose not to and you will remain anonymous. Keep in mind,

"If you don't play the game, you can't win." - a line from Desert Hearts.

Once these ads are published, I encourage you singles to write a line or two to these ladies and request a visit over a cup of coffee. What can you lose? Be brave!



Editorial:

Rewriting The Outcome

A friend of mine decided to leave her partner a few years ago and become involved with another woman. She and this "other" woman have been together now for some years and seem to be doing very well. Both seem happy and to be prospering.

I recently inquired about the past partner and I was so pleased to hear that she has been very much included in their lives. Need for friendship, herstory, family, etc., has been allowed to grow in this new circumstance. Here there is only win/win.

When you love someone it may mean recognizing that they are better off with someone else - in some ways. We don't have to throw the baby out with the bath water....there is probably much to keep that is good.

Perhaps it is this healthy, inclusive attitude, combined with a strong sense of security, that has fostered such prosperity in life.

Any comments?

-Staff G

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't.

SEEKING ROOM TO RENT

I am a 32 yr. old, non smoker, non drinker, with a indoor, declawed cat, needing a room to rent. Will work around house and yard in return for reduced rent. Call 255-8786.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Recently, I have heard a lot of my sisters and brothers out there proclaiming that when the time comes to vote, they will be at home safe in the knowledge that their vote would not have made a difference anyway. While voting is truly a personal choice, I could not imagine that I would go without voting. Especially now, with the controversy over same sex marriages. Personally, I would be happy to see us end up with Domestic Partnership laws for right now. In my own opinion, I do not feel that we have a chance to see either Domestic Partnership or Same Sex Marriages come to life unless we re-elect, Clinton, the one pro-gay president we have had.

One reader in the June 11th issue of the Advocate had this to say, "Are we asking Clinton, the only president to acknowledge us as multidimensional human beings, to walk off the political gangplank by insisting he publicly support same-sex marriage in an election year? That is exactly what the conservatives want us to do; if Clinton is not re-elected, they'll crow for decades about how that pro-gay president was a one-termer. Think patience and vote, my dears. A second-term pro-gay presidency is symbolically more important to us and worth its weight in political gold." Another reader pointed out the following, "Clinton's opposition to same-sex marriage is indeed frustrating. When Evan Wolfson can say that Clinton's only role is "as a moral leader," that goes beyond frustration. No wonder people are discouraged. But as Barney Frank has noted, the president elected this fall will likely have the ability to nominate two or three people to the Supreme Court. For those gay people who are thinking of voting for Dole in protest against Clinton - or simply not voting for either candidate - consider this: Do you want Clinton or Dole making the judicial nominations that could influence the rights of gay people well into the 21st century?"

Isn't it time that we stop letting others decide what is best for us. Take charge of your future - VOTE.



Dear Egeria,

My ex-father-in-law's birthday is coming soon, and I'd like to send him a card. He still is quite nice to me, but other members in my ex's family are not. My concern about sending the card is the other members, and what they will think and say. What would you recommend?

Dear Thoughtful,

If your heart and mind wants to perform an act of kindness, then screw what others may think! Send the card. You and your former father-in-law will feel good because of your kindness. The other family members do not deserve your concern. Nurture the flower and discard the weed.

Services Offered

Need your house cleaned or your yard mowed? Do you need your house or dog watched while you go on vacation? Would a paint job or repairs help the resale value of your home? If you need any work done, then check out this section.

If you have services to offer, then please send your ad to P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46544 or give to any staff member.

House-cleaning, House sitting, Dog sitting, Yard work, I do it all. Call Kimmie Kish at 259-0906. I am responsible, reliable and reasonable.

Subscription to Open Arms - \$10.00/year

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Telephone Number _____

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Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

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Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW
Director



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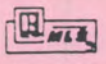
Advertising in Open Arms runs on a
calendar year basis and our advertisers
will be receiving renewal notices soon.
Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year,
or more if you can afford it, for a
business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate
the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If
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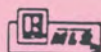
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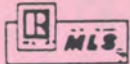
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Voice Mail 235-3425

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August

1996

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Support group 7:00 P.M.	7 N.O.W. MEETING 7:00 P.M. St. Joseph County Library	8  Anniversary for Phyllis & Betty	9	10 <u>IN CHICAGO</u> The Chicago Smelts & Tri- Women Chicago holding 1st an- nual triathlon
11 OPEN ARMS MEETING 6:30 P.M.	12 Reservations due for 3rd Friday out	13 Support group 7:00 P.M.	14  JULIE B. Happy Birthday	15	16 THIRD FRIDAY OUT 6:30 P.M.	17
18	19 Birthday wishes to SHERRILL 	20 Support group 7:00 P.M.	21	22  Happy Birthday : NANCY W.	23 birthday wishes to MARCIA D. 	24  DANCE, DANCE,DANCE
25	26	27 Support group 7:00 P.M.	28	29	30	31 Happy Birthday to: FRAN 